

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, line 4, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Related Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 2, line 4, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained within lines 6-18 as follows:

With the spark plug ~~having the features in Claim 1 of the present invention~~, the insulator and the cermet have the same or similar material properties, which ensures sealing. The fact that the material properties are the same yields advantages for production as well as operation: insulator and cermet can be easily sintered together, because they have the same shrinkage behavior. Since insulator and cermet also have the same thermal expansion, no gaps are produced as a result of different thermal expansions. As a result of the good seal that is achieved, materials can be used in the anterior region of the spark plug that are not sufficiently stable in the presence of air or combustion gases at the high temperatures occurring during operation, e.g., resistors having carbon as the conductive phase or contact pins made of copper and having good thermal conductivity. Only a relatively small quantity of metal is needed for the metallic phase of the cermet, which results in low costs for the spark plug.

On page 8, line 20, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 4, line 1, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Exemplary Preferred Embodiments